

# ELEVATOR FALLS, 8 HURT IN SKYSCRAPER

## Taft Tells Congress to Wipe Out Political Patronage

WEATHER—Rain to-night and Friday; warmer.

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### Taft Aims Death Blow at Federal Patronage; Wants a Clean Sweep

In Message to Congress He Urges That All Local Offices Be Put on Classified List.

HITS MEN IN FAT JOBS.

He Includes Collectors, Postmasters, Immigration Heads and Marshals.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—President Taft in a message to Congress today made a bold strike to kill off political patronage in the Federal service. He vigorously asserted that all local offices throughout the country, including internal revenue and customs collectors, postmasters of the four grades, immigration commissioners and marshals should be placed in the classified list.

The President's message was mainly devoted to a discussion of the nation's financial affairs and governmental matters in general. After he had dwelt on all these, President Taft closed with this declaration:

"I wish to renew again my recommendation that all the local offices throughout the country, including Collectors of Internal Revenue, Collectors of Customs, Postmasters of all four grades, Immigration Commissioners, Marshals, should be by law covered into the classified service, the necessity for confirmation by the Senate be removed, and the President and the others, whose time is now taken up in distributing this patronage under the custom that has prevailed since the beginning of the Government in accordance with the recommendation of the Senators and Congressmen of the majority party should be relieved from this burden."

HITS AT USE OF POLITICAL PATRONAGE.

"I am confident that such a change would greatly reduce the cost of administering the Government, and that it would add greatly to its efficiency. It would take away the power to use the patronage of the Government for political purposes."

"When officers are recommended by Senators and Congressmen from political motives and for political service rendered, it is impossible to expect that while in office the appointees will not regard their tenure as more or less dependent upon continued political service for their patrons, and no regulations, however strict or rigid, will prevent this, because such regulations, in view of the method and motive for selection, are plainly inconsistent and do not make any sense."

The nation's finances are in a "very satisfactory condition," according to President Taft's message.

A surplus of over \$17,000,000 in the receipts for the year over the expenditure was shown by the President's figures, and he remarked that the Post-Office Department for the first time in twenty-eight years was self-supporting.

"The credit of this Government was shown to be better than that of any other Government by the sale of the Panama three per cent. bonds," said the President.

The message urged the importance of currency reform at an early date, and endorsed the main features of the Aldrich plan as proposed by the Monetary Commission. It recommended that the Government be given "reasonable representation" in the management of the proposed National Reserve Association, which under the Aldrich plan will control the country's financial resources.

APPROVES NATIONAL RESERVE ASSOCIATION.

On the subject of currency reform and in connection with the forthcoming report to Congress of the Monetary Commission, President Taft said it was exceedingly fortunate that the wide and undisputed policy of maintaining unchanged the main features of our banking system rendered it at once impossible to introduce a central bank.

He gave his approval to the proposed national reserve association. As to the

### \$1,000 CHAIN LOST BRINGS XMAS JOY TO ITS BOY FINDER

Spies It in Gutter—Worth at Least \$2, He Thinks—Gets \$100 Reward.

Jimmy Scully hasn't all the money in the world; he thinks he has, of course, admitting that Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller and J. Pierpont Morgan have something saved away. Jimmy has one hundred whole dollars, and the Christmas the Scullys are going to have at No. 1510 Second avenue will go down in the annals of the neighborhood as the biggest thing since the Hudson-Fulton Celebration.

It all came about through Jimmy's habit of observation. He is an errand boy, employed by Casola Brothers, tailors, at No. 37 West Thirty-sixth street. Last Tuesday afternoon, while delivering a package, he noticed what looked to be a jumble of glass in the gutter near Fifth avenue and a few doors away from the store. Some boys would have passed it. Jimmy picked it up. He found it to be a necklace, composed of white and red stones. "Oh, betcha," said Jimmy Scully to himself, "that it's worth a couple of dollars. It's sweller than the one I seen in a window the other day for a dollar seventy-nine."

Jimmy had a little sister at home. He had been figuring on giving her a twenty-five-cent hamper and some candy for Christmas. Here was a present worth while. He would give the necklace to Mary.

Upon his return to the store he communicated his idea to some of the workmen. They asked him to show his find. Although Jimmy thought the stones were glass, the workmen knew they were gems, and notified a member of the firm, who looked up the necklace in his safe.

"Somebody lost it," said Mr. Casola. "They'll advertise and you'll get a reward."

Mrs. Margaret Steinman of Tuxedo Park, staying temporarily at the Belmont Hotel, advertised this morning in The World that she had lost a diamond and ruby necklace. Mr. Casola saw the ad and called on Jimmy Scully.

Previously another boy, who had found a valuable miniature which had been attached to the necklace, but had fallen off when it was lost had returned it and got a reward of \$100. Mrs. Steinman did not get the name of that boy.

But Jimmy Scully's sister is going to have a necklace after all—not a white and red one, but a mighty fine necklace as that, for \$150. Also the little Scullys are going to have new shoes and Jimmy is going to be the biggest Santa Claus on the whole length of Second avenue.

REYES PROCLAIMS HIMSELF PRESIDENT OF MEXICO?

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 21.—Reports reached here today from Boland, Tamaulipas, that Gen. Bernardo Reyes had formally opened the revolution against Madero by issuing a proclamation declaring himself President.

TWO MORE IMPORTERS FINED

Poncet and Neuser Plead Guilty of Undervaluation.

John Poncet and John C. Neuser, complaining for value importing firm of New York, appeared today before Judge Holt in the Criminal Branch of the United States Circuit Court.

They withdrew their pleas of not guilty and entered pleas of guilty to an indictment charging undervaluation of merchandise imported from France in May. They were fined \$750. Each is to pay one-half of the fine. The firm made a civil settlement with the Government for \$15,000.

FOR RACING SEE PAGE 2.

### TROLLEY CAR SMASH SHOWED UP SANTA; KIDS ARE IN GLEE

Holiday Saint Tried to Slip Across New York in Disguise, but Is Unmasked.

IT FAIRLY RAINED TOYS.

Even Policeman Joined Youngsters in Premature Taste of Christmas Joys.

Santa Claus tried to sneak across New York in disguise to-day. But his duplicity was discovered and a hundred or more First avenue kids are celebrating their Christmas four days ahead of time with little red wagons, and horses, and rollers, and jack-in-the-boxes which were never meant for them at all.

With no snow on the housetops, the old boy couldn't use his reindeer and sleigh to get across the country under the cover of night. So he used a gas-tine truck as big as a small house and disguised himself as the chauffeur, giving the name of Joe Christ, a shal-low device which any child could puzzle out had he been suspected.

Santa Claus has a branch factory up at Monticello, in the forests of Sullivan County, which he runs under the name of Thomas Derling. From the Sullivan place and across his back he carries the gaily painted wooden toys which make every little store show window nowadays look like a glimpse into heaven.

Well, sir, the old "Joe Christ" got out his big auto truck yesterday, all loaded with crates and crates of these beautiful things, and started for Long Island City, bumping down over the frozen roads past the Hudson, crossing the river at Newburg. He kept his big goggles on all the time and tucked his whiskers under his rabbit fur collar and nobody even gave him a second glance. He was howling along in fine shape until he tried to cross First avenue at Seventy-second street.

TOYS FELL UPON MORTMORAN FOLLOWING CRASH.

It was a First avenue car which gave him away by the simple process of smashing into his truck right at the curb. Owen Cronin, the mortician, of No. 22 East Ninety-fifth street, as astonished, as he sat down very hard on his front platform, to have a shower of toys come clattering down on him.

Several crates had been broken and wonderful things were scattered all over the car tracks, almost to the curb. Out of doorways, from around corners, and it even seemed as though they rose from the manholes and from under the curbs, the kids, cheering, shouting, laughing, gasping for joy.

"Joe Christ," who had held tight to his steering wheel and had not been bumped off his seat, climbed down and tried to drive them away. They peered at him and kept on snatching. As fast as he turned to grab one of the youngsters another would snatch a gaudy Noah's ark from right under his feet.

The language he used was something awful. But it is enough to make even Santa Claus cross to be made a fool of so near the end of a secret journey. He danced around and waved his hands out just like a Barker street peddler selling second-hand clothes in the old days before the Italians came, but he did not say a word until 11 o'clock. Then from the East Eighty-eighth street station came to his rescue.

Then the small mob of children scattered and disappeared as quickly as it had come. The back of the big truck was tied up and "Joe Christ" still muttering naughty things about kids who take things that were not meant for them at all, cranked his motor. But he began to laugh before he was through, and so did Policeman Sahler, when he saw what Santa Claus was up to.

It was the head of the accident very much as a red ribbon collar sticking out of Mortmoran Cronin's heavy overcoat.

"Well," said Cronin, between defiance and shamefacedness, "he didn't want here and I was. What else could I do about it?"

"Joe Christ," still laughing, went on his way and the policeman began making out his report of the accident very hastily, and Cronin started his badly dented car for the barn.

Everybody is glad he went away laughing, because he might have been Zerkowicz and trying to sell down an upper window sash, the lower one being already open, when his fingers slipped and he fell, his body shooting through the opening.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL.

510 Men's Suits and Overcoats, \$4.95. THE "NEW" Clothing Corner, Broadway, cor. Barclay St., opp. Post-Office, sell today and Friday, 5,000 Men's Suits and Winter Overcoats, black, blue, gray, brown, and dark mixed, worsted, all sizes, single or double breasted, worth \$10 in any other store, their special price today and Friday, \$4.95. Open to-night and Friday till 8 P. M.

### WIFE OF IMPRESARIO'S SON, WHO THREATENS TO ACT IN PICTURE SHOWS



### WIFE IN "MOVIES" IF HAMMERSTEIN WON'T PAY BILLS

Mrs. Abraham Threatens to Do Picture Show Turn Unless Supported.

Mrs. Abraham Hammerstein appeared, this morning, in the West Side Police Court and asked for a warrant for bigamy, a warrant for non-support and a warrant for attempted murder, all against her husband, the son of Oscar Hammerstein. After she told her troubles and the matter was referred to Magistrate Herman, the court clerk decided the best she could do would be to go over to the Domestic Relations Court and ask for a warrant for non-support.

Mrs. Hammerstein, before her marriage, five years ago, was known in the theatrical profession as Miriam Henriques. She is said to be the daughter of a former Consul to Cuba. After her marriage to young Hammerstein, it is alleged she discovered he hadn't quite detached himself from a previous wife. Ever since then, there has been strife in the family circle and to-day Mrs. Hammerstein declared she either wanted to be supported, or have her spouse incarcerated.

Mrs. Hammerstein told reporters in court, to-day, that her counsel, E. Zuckerman of No. 18 Broadway, had commenced slander suits against her husband's brothers, William and Arthur Hammerstein.

Mrs. Hammerstein, who, since her separation, has been in vaudeville, billed under the title of "The American Beauty," claims her husband has been kept out of the way. He has been in Newark, Elizabeth and even in New York, she says, but she has been unable to find him.

Asked why she wanted a warrant for attempted murder, she explained she was forced to marry Hammerstein almost at the point of a gun. Then, she said, she thought she loved him, but now declared, with some anger, she was sure she did not.

Pending her husband's properly supporting her, Mrs. Hammerstein said she is going to earn her living on the stage. If she can't get a position in the cast of a Broadway show, Mrs. Hammerstein declares, she is going to do vaudeville in the "movies" and "work her way to the top."

CONGRESS ADJOURNS OVER THE HOLIDAYS.

Both Houses Halt To-Day for a Recess Until "Third Day" of New Year.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Both Houses of Congress adjourned to-day for the holiday recess to resume at noon Jan. 3. The House adjourned at 2:31 P. M. and the Senate at 2:34 P. M.

DIVES TO DEATH DOWN SHAFT.

Frank Zerkowicz, eighteen years old, of No. 6 Clinton street, Manhattan, fell from a six-story window in the Crawford Brass and Company factory, No. 12 North Tenth street, Brooklyn, this morning and was killed.

Zerkowicz was trying to sell down an upper window sash, the lower one being already open, when his fingers slipped and he fell, his body shooting through the opening.

(Continued on Second Page)

### "CROOK" DOUBLE OF GARVEY BEFORE TAXI MURDER JURY

Dick Bell's Rogues Gallery Picture Greatly Resembles Man Being Tried.

CLUB TESTIFIES ALIBI.

Members of "Neighbors' Sons" Swear Mate Was With Them All Fatal Evening.

By the introduction of a Rogues Gallery photograph of Dick Bell, a notorious west side thief, bearing a striking likeness to Martin Garvey, on trial in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court for the murder of Adolph Stern in the "taxicab" robbery last July, Attorneys for the defense to-day struck another blow to the identification of the prisoner on which the State's case is based.

Dick Bell is the crook, still at large, on whom his former pal, Harry Hines, threw suspicion yesterday, when hailed from the Tombs to tell of seeing Bell with a number of diamond rings on his hand late on the night of the shooting. By getting Bell's photograph before the jury, the defense offered an excellent chance to speculate on the question of doubt as to whether it was Garvey, Bell or some other man of similar appearance who fired the fatal shot at Stern.

INVESTIGATOR FINDS IDENTIFICATION DIFFICULT.

Many alibi witnesses, and a man who investigated the possibility of recognizing the distinguishing features of the faces of passersby in front of Jacoby's place at night and found it impossible to tell what they looked like from the positions the State's witnesses said they held when they saw the murder, were other features of the defense to-day.

All the testimony will be in by evening and the case will go to the jury tomorrow.

One by one an assortment of youths, all members of the "Neighbors' Sons" Club, a lower West side social organization, of which Garvey is a popular member, were called to testify that on the night of the robbery and murder Garvey spent the time from 8 o'clock until midnight in Nolan's Cafe, the regular resort of the club, at Bank and Bleeker streets. Their recollection of the events of that particular evening were uniformly accurate and corroborative.

CLUB RALLIED MEMBERS TO TESTIFY FOR MATE.

Assistant District Attorney Nott tried hard to discredit the testimony of these shrewd, hard-bitten youths. He tried to make them admit that they talked together and decided what to testify. That they had discussed the case in Nolan's almost every night since Garvey's arrest, Oct. 4, the "Neighbors' Sons" freely admitted. But each insisted that the discussion had been merely to refresh their recollections of that particular evening in order to round up all who could remember having been in Nolan's that night and Garvey's presence there throughout the evening.

Edward Sheehan of No. 79 Bank street, carpenter, said he was in Nolan's when two men came in, about 10:30 o'clock, July 2, and told the crowd at the bar that a robbery and shooting had taken place at Thirtieth street and Sixth avenue. Garvey was there and had been there all evening. Sheehan became somewhat confused on cross-examination as to just when he had first made Garvey's acquaintance but stuck to his story.

John Carpenter of No. 82 Bank street, helper at the saloon bar, had an absolute recollection of Garvey's presence there all that evening, and Mr. Nott was not able to muddy him in any important particular. The other witnesses admitted having taken numerous glasses of "small light beers" but Carpenter got a snicker from the court room when Mr. Nott questioned him as to his beverage.

"How many drinks did you have that evening?" queried the prosecutor.

"About twenty or twenty-five, mainly admitted Carpenter.

"Twenty or twenty-five drinks, eh?" said Mr. Nott, with unctious "and you were able to remember just what was going on?"

"Yes, sir."

"What were you drinking?" "Clergy tonic."

The presentation of alibi witnesses was interrupted to put on the stand David B. Crockett, an artist and decorator, who told of having seen Garvey on the night of the murder.

(Continued on Second Page)

### WHERE ELEVATOR FELL AND CROWD WATCHING REMOVAL OF VICTIMS.

Photographed for The Evening World by a Staff Photographer.



### SKYSCRAPER ELEVATOR FALLS AS CABLE PARTS; EIGHT ARE INJURED

Every Passenger in Car of Importers and Traders' Building Hurt as It Crashes Upon Basement Concrete.

### GIRL AMONG THE VICTIMS OF SEVEN-FLOOR TUMBLE.

Financial District in 'Panic as Rumor of Explosion Follows Noise of Disaster.

An elevator car carrying seven men and a girl dropped during the luncheon hour to-day from the sixth floor to the basement of the Importers and Traders' Building, a nineteen-story structure fronting at No. 24 Stone street and running back to No. 59 Pearl street. All the passengers in the car and the elevator operator were injured. Five sustained fractures of the limbs and the other three were severely hurt.

### ATWOOD BREAKS FLIGHT RECORD IN HYDRO-AEROPLANE

Aviator Flies From Lynn to Providence, Covering 130 Miles in Fine Style.

PROVIDENCE, Dec. 21.—A flight of more than 130 miles in a hydro-aeroplane was completed when Harry N. Atwood, the Boston aviator, who left Point of Pines, near Lynn, Mass., at 9:53 A. M. to-day, alighted easily on the waters of Narragansett Bay, near the Edgewood Yacht Club, this city, at 1:40 P. M. Atwood followed the coastline in his trip, and when his machine touched upon the water at Edgewood his last drop of gasoline was consumed.

Atwood claims that his flight of to-day exceeds by fifteen miles the best previous record in a machine of the style in which he flew to-day.

After leaving Point of Pines this forenoon Atwood headed across Boston harbor, flew over Hingham and reached the Massachusetts south shore.

Skirting along the side of Cape Cod Bay, the aviator passed over the new Cape Cod canal and then crossed over Buzzard's Bay. He was seen from Horse Neck Beach in the town of Westport, Mass., soon after noon as he headed toward Rhode Island.

CABLE SNAPPED LIKE A PIECE OF STRING.

There are four elevators in the Importers and Traders' Building. They are operated by electricity and were inspected yesterday and pronounced in good condition.

The car operated by Barney had stopped at the eighth floor to let on a couple of passengers. At the sixth floor the cable snapped like a piece of string just above the roof of the car.

Barney clapped on his emergency brake, but the car had gained terrific velocity and he could not stop it. The crash when the car struck the basement was heard for blocks around and was

The injured are: John Barney, elevator operator, twenty-four years old, No. 248 West Twenty-eighth street, cuts and sprained back.

Peter Berge, thirty-four, clerk, No. 245 Ninety-first street, Brooklyn; both ankles sprained.

Joseph A. Nicholas, fifty-seven, No. 104 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn; right ankle broken.

Allen Chambers, thirty-two, clerk, No. 302 Prospect street, Cranford, N. J.; left leg broken.

Joseph N. Leomedico, thirty-two, broker, No. 131 Hamilton avenue, Brooklyn; right ankle fractured.

Carl Platon, fifty-eight years old, ship chandler, seventy-ninth street and Shore road, Brooklyn, both legs broken.

Ellen Kahne, seventeen, stenographer, No. 174 Madison avenue, left ankle broken.

Capt. M. B. Hanson, forty-five, captain tramp steamship Thorpe, left ankle sprained.

Sigmund Bandy, fifty-six, importer, No. 35 West Ninety-third street, bruises and contusions.

All the injured, with the exception of Barney, the elevator operator, were sent to their homes in private ambulances or taxicabs. Barney is in Hudson Street Hospital and it is feared his spine is seriously affected.

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A Hint to Homeseekers

Tenants are put to a supreme test these cold winter mornings. Can you laugh in the face of Jack Frost and say, truthfully, that your House, Room, Apartment, Store or Office is warm, suitably lighted, arranged, ventilated, located, &c.?

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